



**Architect of the Capitol**  
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January 12, 2016

Dear Colleague:

Happy New Year! We at the Architect of the Capitol are honored to care for the iconic buildings and grounds of Capitol Hill, to provide a safe, effective workplace for Congress and to welcome millions of your constituents to tour the U.S. Capitol and U.S. Botanic Garden. With your support, we are undertaking some major projects this year and I'd like to share a few updates.

By the 2017 Presidential Inauguration, work on the Dome and Rotunda will be complete. We will be finished repairing more than 1,300 cracks in the cast iron Dome, replacing and repairing damaged elements and applying 1,215 gallons of paint. In the Rotunda, electrical and mechanical systems will be upgraded, new lighting installed, new paint applied and the last piece of scaffold will be taken down.

However, scaffold will not be a thing of the past just yet. New scaffold is going up across the campus in support of urgent efforts to address serious water infiltration and deterioration of the Capitol campus' parking garages, sandstone and marble facades, roofs and skylights.

Look around Capitol Hill and you'll also notice the restoration of the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial, accessibility improvements to Bartholdi Park, a structural safety analysis on the clouds component of Calder's Mountains and Clouds sculpture in the Hart Senate Office Building, and the initial phase of the Cannon Building Renewal. All of these projects will be substantially completed this year.

In addition, we will complete the installation of lighter weight main entrance and exit doors at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center to ease access for the more than 2 million annual visitors. Off campus, we are constructing new storage space for precious Library of Congress collections at the Fort George G. Meade military installation in Maryland.

Finally, it won't be long before we are hammering the first nails on the Presidential Inauguration platforms and bleachers.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support and patience. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Andrew Dentamaro in our office of Communications and Congressional Relations at 202.228.6880 or [andrew.dentamaro@aoc.gov](mailto:andrew.dentamaro@aoc.gov) for more information.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, LEED AP  
Architect of the Capitol